

From the Desk of Béatrice Ellis, President

**Vol. LXVII No. 4
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Time for a Fresh Start?

On my first day of the New York Times Fresh Start Challenge, I had to answer the question “How do you really feel now?” Of course “good” or “bad” would not do. Helpfully, I could consult a list of words describing my specific mood at different times of the day. I was intrigued by positive words such as: Present, Trusting, Eager, Engaged, Free, Playful, Grounded, Caring, Fortunate and Touched. On the negative side, Exasperated, Grouchy, Depleted, Perplexed, Weary, Lethargic, Trapped and Removed were words echoing how I had been feeling at various points during the pandemic.

My second challenge today is “Exercise Snack” which should take me away from the fridge and break the long stretches of sitting down while working on the computer or teaching. Just the thought of moving around and being able to enjoy the nice weather outside brings my spirits up and, as I am writing to you and as the pandemic is receding, I truly embrace the chance of a fresh start, not just for me but also for our organization.

I am heartened that this June 2021 edition of the Newsletter reflects MMTA’s renewal and openness to change:

* The board has unanimously approved a regular MMTA webinar series, starting in September. This initiative, presented by Joy Morin, Education Chair, and her committee, will enhance the value of membership and reach a wide array of educational needs and nurture a deeper sense of community.

* Vice-President, Dr. Derek Polischuk, offers a glimpse of what the conference will be like in October. This will be the first time we experiment with an in-person conference on Friday and Saturday as opposed to the previous Sunday to Tuesday schedule. It is also the first time in many years that all events will be held at a University, bypassing expensive Hotel contracts.

* Hot off the press is the creation of an Advisory SAT committee, led by Jacki VanderSlik, SAT Curriculum Chair. The committee will evaluate what changes can be implemented based on the feedback from all SAT chairs.

* For the first time, the 2021-22 budget is presented to the general membership here in the June edition rather than in September. This allows the general membership to be informed about the new budget ahead of July 1st, which marks the beginning of the next fiscal year rather than 2 months after the fiscal year is well underway.

* Welcome David Husser, from the Grand Traverse MTA! David will fill the Treasurer position vacancy starting on July 1st. This is fantastic news and MMTA is lucky to have him on board.

Continued on pg. 3

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FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 2021
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August 23

All materials must be
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President's message, continued from pg. 1

* In collaboration with the Career Services and Music Entrepreneurship Department at Michigan State University, we are thrilled to welcome our first summer intern! Tina Chou just finished her second Master's degree at MSU and is interested in learning about the inner workings of a non-profit music organization. She is working closely with Yelena Wells, MMTA Webmaster & Communications Chair, since the primary focus of her internship will be on media marketing strategies, communication and recruitment. We are looking to improve our communication with our membership and the community at large and can't wait to share our progress with you soon!

* Sometimes recognition for one's work happens to coincide with new beginnings. Let's congratulate Dr. Garik Pedersen, MMTA Past President, who received the MTNA Distinguished Award for best AMT article of the year (October 2020) with "[The Victory Vertical Project: A Historical Case Study in Recreational Music Making.](#)" This award came as Dr. Pedersen was enjoying the early stages of his retirement from EMU and before he left Michigan to settle where the winters might not be so cold. Learn more about Victory Vertical at victoryvertical.com

MMTA is also determined to be more inviting and to strengthen the connection between its chapters and all its members:

* When Susan Tindall, President of the Great Muskegon MTA chapter, informed me about her decision to close her chapter, I encouraged her to write an article about her chapter's history as a way to both celebrate its accomplishment and also to inspire other chapters to learn from her experience. I know it was hard for Susan but I am very grateful for her thoughtful contribution. Hopefully putting her thoughts in writing eased the process of turning the "88th" page and moving on.

* Taking on the difficult topic of diversity and equity is a challenge and, as President, I was not sure how to broach the topic at the State level until I heard the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild's Anti Racism Task Force share their experience. What I heard that day touched me deeply because it was genuine and honest. It was about reflecting, listening and learning to see things from a different perspective. This is what prompted me to contact Martha Hilley, then MTNA President, for advice. After she viewed a replay of the AAAPTG's presentation, Martha immediately recognized its worth and proceeded to invite the five-committee members to participate in a one-hour interview session she hosted at the MTNA conference in March. The session was extremely well attended and is having now interesting repercussions nationally. I am very grateful that the AAAPTG Anti-Racism Task Force agreed to share their work in this June edition.

I hope the news above will make you appreciate how much the MMTA Board is responding to the need for change and how resolute it is to promote "a close professional fraternity," as stated in our bylaws.



This brings me however to the notion of burnout and how it was particularly hard to escape it this year for many of us. I encourage you to watch the video of the April 17 MMTA Webinar led by Michelle L Steffes, CPS, CPLC and the CEO/Founder of IPV Consulting, entitled “How to Avoid Burn-out.” It often does not take much to trigger a sense of hope and regain some willpower. And Michelle’s webinar did just that for me. Her webinar is certainly partly responsible for my joining the New York Times Fresh Start Challenge, the kind of things I usually dismiss without a glance.

I wish you all a summer where you can rejoice in the company of friends, family and colleagues, where you can support each other and, as all musicians must learn to do, where you listen in depth to all the conversations around you.

A call to all Chapter Presidents:

Thank you and your board of directors for helping us identify members of your chapter who would be interested in taking a more active role in MMTA. These positions are vacant or soon to be vacant:

- Membership Chair – contact Béatrice Ellis
- Communication Coordinator (new position) – contact Yelena Wells
- MTNA Junior Coordinator – contact Laurie Marshall
- SAT Voice Chair – contact Michelle Mitchum
- MTNA Foundation Chair – contact Béatrice Ellis

2021 MMTA Conference



Save the date for our 2021 MMTA Conference IN PERSON October 8 and 9 at the University of Michigan! A remote option will be provided for those who prefer to attend this way. What a joy it will be to network, learn from our exceptional clinicians and hear live music after such a long absence. Norman Krieger, Professor of Piano at Indiana University, will present, give a masterclass, and play a recital. William Chapman Nyaho, editor of “Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora” will teach us about his work in this arena. Please see the March 2021 newsletter for the full bios. Additionally, we are now accepting submissions from teachers to give 20 minute presentations on teaching topics of their choice. Submissions are being accepted now at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2021MMTAproposals>

College students and spouses can attend this year’s conference free of charge. Registration for this event is \$100, and information about how to register will be forthcoming.

I’m excited for this exceptional event, grateful to the University of Michigan for the use of their exceptional space, and can’t wait to meet you in Ann Arbor. As a Spartan, it pains me to say this, but “Go Blue, and Go MMTA!”

MMTA Summer Intern

We are excited to welcome Tina Chou to MMTA! Tina will be working with Yelena Wells and Béatrice Ellis this summer. The goal of the internship is to assist with marketing campaigns, communications and recruitment.

Taiwanese-Canadian pianist Tina Chou has actively performed in national and international festivals and competitions. As a former member of the West Island Youth Symphony Orchestra (WIYSO), she performed at the Maison Symphonique in the Association d'orchestre de jeunes du Quebec (AOJQ) Festival in 2016. As the first prize winner of the 2012 Crescendo International Music Competition, she has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, New York, and made her debut in January of 2012. Her performance (in duo with her sister Gina Chou) on PBS Mountain Lake Television has also been broadcasted nationally.



Tina Chou holds a Master of Music in piano pedagogy at Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance as well as a double minor in music education and in early music from McGill University. She has also studied at the Orford Music Festival, Maine Chamber Music Seminar and Walnut Hill Summer Music Festival. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music in collaborative piano at Michigan State University where she studies with Dr. Zui-Hua Tang. Besides sharing music through performing, she also enjoys teaching music and piano to young children, and she has brought her students to perform at public pianos around the neighborhood during the summer.

New MMTA Treasurer

David Husser is a pianist and piano teacher living in Traverse City, Michigan, where he maintains a large independent studio. He teaches group and applied piano at both Northwestern Michigan College and Interlochen Arts Camp. He also frequently collaborates as a pianist with high school and collegiate choirs, and with other soloists and organizations in the Traverse City area.

Mr. Husser's compositions have been performed by pianists and choral ensembles in multiple states. His articles have been published by American Music Teacher, and he has served as a presenter and panelist at a variety of national conferences. He holds a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Illinois.



Mr. Husser will begin as Treasurer on July 1, 2021.



MMTA State Piano Finals May 2nd, 2021

Piano: Intermediate Division

Eric Van De Vort and TJ Lymenstull, Adjudicators

First Place: Bryna Sullivan, student of Marta Pietrzyk
Second Place: Spencer Sun, student of Catherine Rollin
Third Place: Ethan Mihaescu, student of Catherine Rollin
Honorable Mention: John Foster, student of Helen Marlais

Piano: Junior Division

Eric Van De Vort and TJ Lymenstull, Adjudicators

First Place: Aaron Wang, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place: Yi-An Liao, student of Catherine Rollin
Third Place: Alexander Kwon, student of Laurie M. Marshall
Honorable Mention: Hannah Chun, student of Betty Mustert
Honorable Mention: Adahlia Xu, student of Catherine Rollin

Piano: Senior Division

Adrienne Wiley and Michael Coonrod, Adjudicators

First Place: Tejas Shivaraman, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place: Shaun Lee, student of Nai-Wen Wang
Third Place: Fuka Somatomo, student of Sookkyung Cho
Honorable Mention: Allyson Franklin, student of Catherine Rollin

MMTA 2021 Concerto Competition Results

Division II	1st Place: Ethan Mihaescu. Piano. Teacher: Catherine Rollin
Division III	1st Place: Madeline Cha. Violin. Teacher: Sunmi Chang
	2nd Place: Brian Zhang. Teacher: Christopher Harding
	3rd Place: Allen Choi. Violin. Teacher: Mallory Tabb
	Honorable Mention: Arianne Kim. Cello. Teacher: Marilyn Kesler
Division IV	1st Place: Richard Gao. Piano. Teacher: Michael Coonrod
	2nd Place: Eric Yun. Violin. Teacher: I-Fu Wang
	3rd Place: Fuka Somatomo. Piano. Teacher: Sookkyung Cho
	Honorable Mention: Audrey Zhang. Piano. Teacher: Christopher Harding





SAT testing: Looking back to 2021 and forward to 2022

The 2021 tests are available on the MMTA website, these are great tools to use in preparing your students for next year.

Despite all the COVID-related changes and adjustments, our Michigan students were able to complete their SAT testing and had a very successful year! Students were even able to compete in Semi Finals and Finals again. This year, we tested 1556 students-- 1539 pianists, 13 string players, 3 woodwinds, and 1 vocalist. I know that we are all looking forward to this fall and next spring in the hope of enjoying many of our musical activities in person again.

I'd like to thank the testing committee who put in many hours of test writing and proofing: Holly Bolthouse, Janice Derian, Cheryl Ferrari, Ruth Fry, Sarah Hamilton, David Husser, Myung Lee, Diana Munch, Amber Redouty, Silvia Roederer, Mary Scanlan, Alisha Snyder, and Carol Van Randwyk. If you know any of them, tell them thanks!

And a big thanks to the many teachers who answered my request for new committee members, we are all set for 2022 and have already started work on the new tests.

Jacki VanderSlik



2021- 2022 Budget Proposal

Here is a short summary of the main changes reflected in next year's budget. The proposed budget can be found at: <https://michiganmusicteachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FY-2021-2022-Budget-Proposal-Final.pdf>

- Lowered expectation regarding membership dues income.
- Allocated funds to sustain the new webinar series.
- Increased allocations to:
 - Commissioned Composer budget
 - Administrative Expenses to include PayPal, Zoom, LARA license, QuickBooks and more.
 - Technology and website maintenance.
 - Achievement Testing: Judges stipends and SAT Test Preparers to include the engraving of string SAT tests.

As per our bylaws, the membership will vote on this budget in the fall during the conference. If you have any questions about the budget, please feel free to contact me via email.

I am really thrilled that David Husser has agreed to take over the job of MMTA Treasurer after June 30th. I am certain that his skills will serve MMTA well and I look forward to working with him to ensure a smooth transition.

Barbara DuRussel, MMTA Treasurer



The Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association

Established 1933; Disbanded in 2021

A Farewell Reflection

Written by Susan Rogalla Tindall; MM, SCTM, NCTM; President of GMMTA

"I joined GMMTA in the 1960's and was welcomed into this association where I enjoyed the camaraderie, expertise, and advice of the member piano teachers. We shared materials, teaching techniques, and attended workshops together. I look back on those years with fondness for the fellowship we shared and all we learned together that made us better educated as piano teachers."

Marge Winter; Retired member. President 1973-74.

The illustrious eighty-eight year life of the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association will close the "keyboard cover" of its history on June 30, 2021.

"At the beginning of my second year as an independent piano teacher in Muskegon, I met Wilma Jeanne Swartz who invited me to my first GMMTA meeting. The affiliation with other piano teachers and the programs offered by GMMTA was just what I needed. My concern for my students not reaching a "performance ready" level with the pieces they were studying was solved by Wilma's simple answer - "PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES! STUDENTS NEED GOALS!" Professional affiliation with GMMTA gave me the resources to motivate my students, and meet other piano teachers from Muskegon and the state who have become my lifelong friends and colleagues."

Mary Anne Hornik; Member 1970-2016. President 1977-1980.

The Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association was established in 1933 under the leadership of its first president, Agnes Hollway Risk. This association started with seventeen members, and one month later the meeting minutes reflected an increase to twenty-five members. The membership was diverse; voice, drama and dance teachers, as well as organists, choral conductors and other professional instrumental musicians. However, piano instructors have been the primary members for many years.

"When I moved to western Michigan I was looking for the opportunity to continue my private teaching. I found information about GMMTA and contacted Susan Tindall. She convinced me of the many benefits, and I immediately joined in 1996. Being part of GMMTA inspired me to teach with excellence and lended many possibilities to connect and learn from other wonderful teachers."

Sherry Merz; Member 1996-2018. GMMTA Awards Recital Chairperson

"I joined GMMTA in 1996. The encouragement, teaching standards, and friends made during these years hold a highlight in my life. This association helped me to grow musically. Thank you so much GMMTA!"

Janice Hammond; Member 1996-2021. Ensemble Festival Chairperson

GMMTA was established as a Senior Club member of the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs on November 1, 1937, and Michigan Music Teachers Association by 1950. The 1952 GMMTA Yearbook showed added affiliation with the National Federation of Music Clubs and Music Teachers National Association.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

March 27, 1951 - The decision to approve and establish State Certification for qualified piano teachers was held at a one-day MMTA convention in Muskegon.

1968 - The 35th anniversary was celebrated with a monetary gift for the continuing formation of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

1993 - A Gala 60th anniversary luncheon included proclamations from two local mayors, with December 1 proclaimed as "Music Appreciation Day" by the City of Muskegon.

1996 - The Monica Joseph/Dewey and Gladys Wilson Music Scholarship Fund was established at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County by members Monica Joseph and Wilma Jeanne Swartz.

October 8-10, 2000 - GMMTA hosted the MMTA 115th State Convention in Muskegon.



A proud moment for the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association as the hosts for the 115th MMTA State Convention in Muskegon at the Muskegon Holiday Inn in the year 2000.

Back Row, left to right; Inez Potter, Mary Anne Hornik, Janice Hammond, Karen Kahrs, Sherry Merz. Front row, left to right; Mildred Bradfield, Anna Carlyle, Wilma Jeanne Swartz, Jacqueline Fisher, Susan Rogalla Tindall.

"I met Wilma Jeanne Swartz at a Muskegon Community College workshop. She invited me to join GMMTA. Membership in this association had an impact on my teaching with many programs, workshops, and opportunities for student performances. I will always cherish the many friendships I made with my GMMTA colleagues."

Inez Potter; Member 1980-2010. President 1985-88.



“GMMTA is an organization that brought me support, education, and motivation, as well as many performance opportunities to my students. I received support from the teachers in many ways. I have been a member for thirteen years and am grateful.”

Jennifer Rhodes; Member since 2007. Awards Recital Chairperson, Treasurer

Under the leadership and guidance of twenty-nine presidents since 1933, GMMTA has a rich history of educational programs for the piano instructor, as well as performance and growth opportunities for the piano students. There has also been involvement in a variety of community events through the years.

“Much of the success of my studio goes to GMMTA. I cherish the friendship of the teachers as they have always been willing to share their “teaching secrets of success.” The MMTA conventions and classes have been immensely helpful to my students and me.”

Mildred Bradfield; Member 1989-2020. President 1999-2003.

Our current members, Kristen Avila, Audra Erb, Jennifer Rhodes, and myself, Susan Rogalla Tindall, bring the memories, treasures and traditions of the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association into the future. It is appropriate that GMMTA disbands, or “retires” in its eighty-eighth year, the year that matches the number of keys on the piano! We look forward to joining the welcoming membership of the Holland Piano Teachers Forum, our friend and collaborator for many events through past years, and now, into the future.

“As the current president, it is my responsibility to bring closure and “retire” the rich historic years of musical friendship and dedication to piano instruction provided by GMMTA. My first term as president began in 1994, and as this term ended in 1999, I was invited by MMTA to be the local chairperson for the 2000 State Convention in Muskegon. I have also been the Honors Recital Chairperson since 2002 when we began hosting our own Honors Recital to recognize the GMMTA students who excelled at Achievement Testing. I would not be the piano instructor I have become without the great influence and leadership of GMMTA, and my colleagues who are my “forever musical friends.” It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers through various responsibilities for thirty-four years.”

Susan Rogalla Tindall; Member since 1987. President 1994-1999, 2005-2014, 2018-2021

Presentation by Dr. Adrienne Wiley; “Sequencing and Pacing of Early Classical Literature.” This presentation took place at the home of GMMTA president Susan Rogalla Tindall in September of 2019.

Standing; left to right: Dr. Adrienne Wiley with GMMTA members Susan Rogalla Tindall, Audra Erb, Kristen Avila

Seated; left to right; Mildred Bradfield, Jennifer Rhodes





A How-To Guide for Forming Your Own Anti-Racism Task Force

The murder of George Floyd last summer sparked anger and outrage throughout the nation. Organizations across the country were quick to condemn the violent act and pledged support to the Black Lives Matter movement. During this time, Gaye Thomas and Elena Tsai, the President and Vice President of the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild (AAAPTG - the Guild), began to have conversations with some members on whether or not to issue a public statement. After much thought, the full Board of the Guild decided it would be more effective and meaningful to create an Anti-Racism Task Force that includes three current piano teachers and two community members.

1. Who are the members of the task force and why did each get involved?

Renee Robbins:

I am a child of immigrants from Vienna and my parents were the children of immigrants to Vienna. My heritage is Jewish Ashkenazi (that means Yiddish speaking) and Sephardi (that means Ladino speaking). They came here to the States from Vienna just before the Nazis invaded -- all but one grandfather who wasn't allowed into this country because he was Hungarian and the Hungarian immigrant quota was already filled. He was sent east to a ghetto and died there. My other grandparents were Polish/Ukrainian (the borders and names keep changing) and Bulgarian.

I am a long-time member of the AAAPTG and past president, as well as being a Suzuki teacher trainer. My parents, especially my mom, set the example for me of ease in living in a multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-ethnic community. George Floyd's murder and BLM touched off soul-searching in all our communities and also in me. It was a no-brainer for me to want to have my fingers in any anti-racism work being done in the Guild.

Betsy McCabe:

I've been a member of the AAAPTG since 2007. I identify as white. My ancestors came to this land in the 1800s from Ireland. I grew up in Georgia, then lived in Tennessee and Washington DC before moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1990.

While I'm not currently on the Piano Teachers Guild Board, I did meet with our President and VP in early June - after the killing of George Floyd - around the question of whether we should put out a statement. The conclusion to our discussion was that it's important that our response not just be words, but also ACTION, and also that it's important for our members to learn and do our own work around racism, white privilege, and the notion of "white supremacy" on which our country is founded.

I think that they contacted me because they were aware of my work with a small non-profit, the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice – where, since 2014, I've been learning about and working on racial and economic justice issues. When I was contacted after the June Board Meeting and asked if I would be on the Task Force, I said yes because I felt this is some of the most important work I could be doing at that time.



Ruth Hatcher:

I was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. My mother was white and a former music teacher. My father was an African American social worker. (They married in 1942) I went to a Quaker college (Earlham) and the University of Michigan. I taught English at the local community college (Washtenaw) for 30 years, chaired the department and was president of the faculty union. I have served on various community non profit boards and am currently an elected trustee of the aforementioned community college. I am married, I have 3 grown children –all of whom had music lessons (violin, piano and cello) and three grandchildren.

Renee Robbins was my son's piano teacher. I have always said that my children's music teachers helped me raise my family. Renee was no exception; so when she called, explained to me what she was up to with the Piano Teachers' Guild I was hard pressed to say yes. Besides this would be a short-term project (ha!) that sounded like a good thing to do considering the nation's grappling with issues of racism.

Thai Vi Pham:

I am a child of refugees and a first generation Vietnamese-American. I was born and raised in Michigan. I work for a wealth management firm as a financial advisor and currently reside in Ann Arbor with my husband and three daughters - two of which are piano students in Renee Robbins' studio.

As with many, I was horrified at George Floyd's murder and all the events that followed last summer. I remembered not just wanting change but also felt a sense of urgency and responsibility of being an active force to change. And so when Renee reached out and explained that the Guild was putting together this Task Force, it was an eager and easy yes for me.

Veena Kulkarni-Rankin:

I identify as a Filipino-Indian-American pianist: my mom immigrated from the Philippines, and my dad from India in the 1960's. They met in Chicago, and I grew up in the Midwest. I'm the Lead Instructor at the Faber Piano Institute, the pianist for Duo 1717, a classical and world music storytelling duo, and part of my church band. I've been regularly involved with peace and justice work for about 14 years.

Betsy and I know each other several ways, and she recommended me for our Guild's Anti-Racism Task Force. I said yes mostly because -I-needed to get woke as a piano teacher and Guild member! Even with being active and passionate about justice work, I was blind to the fact that -WE- can make a difference! After the murder of George Floyd, it was our Guild VP, Elena Tsai, who asked the question on facebook, "What can we, as a Guild, do about the privilege we piano teachers and the majority of our students hold?" My first answer to myself was, "Not much." Together, with the AAAPTG and this Task Force, that answer has become, "We can do a LOT."



2. How did the Task Force do it's work? What was the process of the Task Force?

We had our very first meeting on July 5, 2020 and met almost every Sunday thereafter. We used this time to establish trust within our group by sharing our stories and experiences. While we initially had a goal to wrap things up in September, we soon realized that this was going to take more time. It is important to note that we were able to continue to build on our progress due to the full support from the Board leadership. A few other guidelines that we established:

- One member always took notes and shared them each week. This kept us honest and on task.
- We kept the Board informed about our work and often shared our notes with them.
- We often had homework to help start the next meeting
- Most importantly, we only met for ONE hour.

3. What have you been doing? What were your goals, and what have you accomplished?

Our first "product" in August 2020 was our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ann Arbor Piano Teachers' Guild's Anti Racism Task Force is to initiate our path toward diversity, equity and inclusion. The Anti-Racism Task Force will facilitate a listening process with the membership, provide resources for learning, and guide conversations which we hope will lead to meaningful changes in our operations as a professional organization.

This served as the cornerstone for all of our work. The next step was to engage the Guild members, which we did in several ways. First, in October, we sent out a survey to gauge their thoughts and feelings towards various topics surrounding racism and how it may or may not affect their studio, students, and teaching. We used the results of the survey as the base of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presentation to the members in December. We used this time to share information and resources to build a more diverse and inclusive studio...not just who we teach but what we teach.

Next we held two listening sessions in March 2021 in which we invited musicians of color to speak to the Guild about their own experiences navigating racism in both the musical and non-musical world. The intent of these sessions was to help foster more understanding and empathy among our colleagues and students. One of the most impactful takeaways from these sessions was that our music studios can be and should be safe havens for our students and that teaching music is more than teaching music. Also in March, we were invited by then-president March Hilley to share our work at the MTNA Conference, with Martha serving as our moderator.

In all the work that we did, we were very cognizant of our tone - we really wanted to focus on calling people in and not calling people out.

4. How will you know when you're done? What are the next steps?

The work is never done and it should not be a “check the box’ kind of project. The progress and enthusiasm must continue. However, our Task Force is coming to an end as we will be passing the baton. Our final project is to create a final report with ideas and resources for the Board to use as well as making two very important recommendations to the AAAPTG board and membership:

1. Create a board position that continues the work of the Anti-Racism Task force with the support of an active committee.
2. Explore ways to diversify Guild Membership.

This work has been a constant for us during these tumultuous and uncertain times and although our Task Force is dissolving, our friendship and work will continue.

